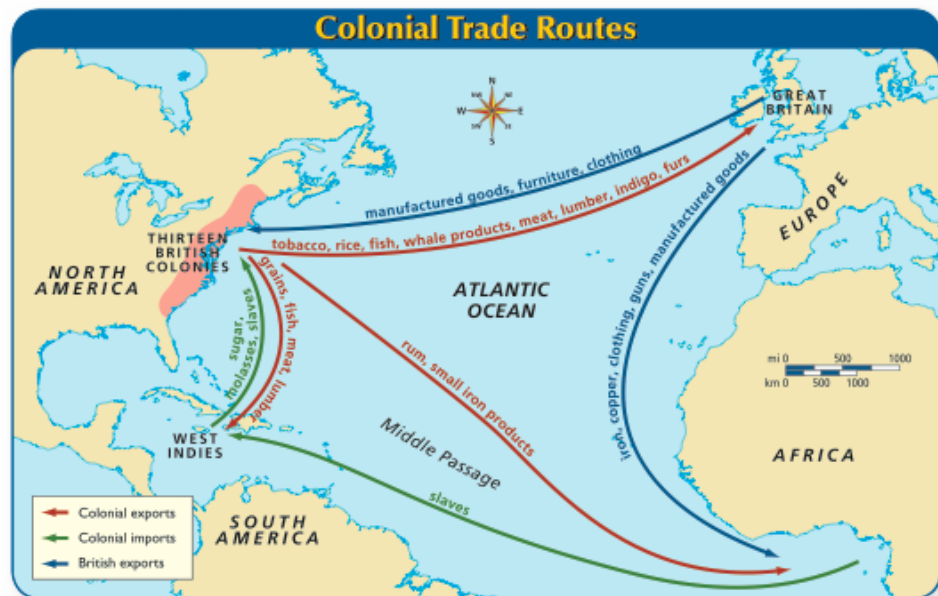


The Life of a Colonial Merchant – Triangle Trade in the Atlantic

The colonists found themselves in a land rich with natural resources. They used some of these resources for everyday living—to build their homes, make their clothes, or provide their meals. They had more than they needed, so they **exported** many resources to England. To export is to send goods to another place. Resources such as lumber, indigo, and furs became part of the **trade** between the colonists and England. Trade is the business of buying and selling or exchanging goods.

The colonists exported **raw materials**—resources used to make other products—to England. From these raw materials, manufacturers in England made goods such as furniture and clothing. The colonists then **imported** these manufactured goods from England. To import is to bring goods in from another place. So, in their trade with England, the colonists exported raw materials and imported manufactured goods. You can see this trade between the colonies and England on the map. The arrows show the directions in which goods traveled.



The Triangular Trade and Slavery

This map also shows trade between the colonies and the Caribbean and between the colonies and Africa. Part of this trading system was the terrible trade in people—the slave trade. The slave trade was part of a pattern of trade called the **triangular trade**. The three "sides" of this trade triangle went like this:

- Ships carried simple manufactured goods from New England to the west coast of Africa. The merchants sold their goods and bought captured Africans from slave traders.
- In the "Middle Passage," the merchants took their captives across the Atlantic to South America and to the islands of the West Indies. The ships were so crowded and filthy that many of the captives died on the journey.
- After selling some slaves, merchants loaded their ships with sugar and molasses. Then they sailed back to the colonies where they sold the sugar, molasses, and the rest of the slaves.

Look at the map on the opposite page and answer the following questions.

- Name two animal resources that the colonies exported to England.
- Name three plant resources that the colonies exported.
- Name two major exports from England to the colonies.
- Name two resources that the Europeans exported to Africa.
- Where did enslaved people stop before they reached Britain's North American colonies?



Wooden sailing ships transported goods across the Atlantic Ocean.



Skill Builder

Review

- Is tobacco an animal, plant, or mineral resource?
- Give an example of a fossil fuel. Are fossil fuels renewable or nonrenewable resources?
- A colonial company sells wood to a company in England. From this wood, the English company makes furniture, which it exports to the colonies. In this trade, what is the raw material? What is the manufactured good?
- What did the colonies mainly export to England, raw materials or manufactured goods?
- Which was a common export from the Southern colonies, rice or iron tools?
- What is the Middle Passage?

Try It Yourself

Think about the natural resources you use in your daily life. Most of your food comes from natural resources. Much of your clothing does, too. You might use cooking utensils made of copper or aluminum. You might use oil or natural gas to heat your home. Make a list of at least eight natural resources you use regularly. Categorize the resources you list as animal, plant, mineral, or fossil fuel.